

**CALIFORNIA MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT INITIATIVE
BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE
PUBLIC WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT**

WHAT: Public workshops to recommend a central coast study region, based on the criteria adopted by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force at its January 10-11, 2005 meeting.

WHY: These facilitated workshops are designed to bring stakeholders together with MLPA staff to begin applying the adopted criteria to potential central coast study regions. Information will be presented and gathered, and the following questions addressed:

1. What are logical boundaries that define potential study regions from Pt. Arena to Pt. Conception?
2. Which criteria for selecting an initial study region are the most important and why?
3. How do the different potential study regions fit with the selection criteria and which region(s) appears the most desirable at this time?

A recommendation for selecting the central coast study region will be presented to the task force at its February 22-23, 2005 meeting in Monterey. Once the task force adopts a study region, work will then proceed to begin identifying potential alternative networks of marine protected areas (marine conservation areas, marine parks and marine reserves) within that study region.

WHO: Stakeholders and professional staff to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force.

WHEN/WHERE: Public workshops for applying selection criteria to potential central coast study regions are scheduled for:

Tuesday, February 15
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Bodega Marine Laboratory
University of California
2099 Westside Road
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

Wednesday, February 16
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
University Inn & Conference Center
611 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Thursday, February 17
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Morro Bay Veterans Hall
209 Surf Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442

CONTACT: For more information about the MLPA Initiative, visit the website at www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa or contact Melissa Miller-Henson at Melissa@resources.ca.gov or 916.654.2506.